

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 17-33 are currently pending, Claims 17, 18, 22, 23, 27, and 28 having been amended, and Claims 32 and 33 having been added for consideration. The changes and additions to the claims do not add new matter and are supported by originally filed specification, for example, on page 15, lines 6-15; page 19, line 20 to page 20, line 1; page 32, line 28 to page 34, line 13; Figures 6, 8, 10, 11, and 13; and original Claims 1-4 and 11-13.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 17-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Knudson et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0095937, hereinafter “Knudson”) in view of Miyamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,634,947, hereinafter “Miyamoto”).

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of an interview with Applicants’ representatives, Mr. Christopher O’Brien and Mr. Sameer Gokhale, on September 2, 2010. During the interview, Mr. O’Brien explained the Applicants’ invention to the Examiner and presented proposed clarifying amendments to overcome the outstanding rejections and to distinguish the claims over the applied art. No formal agreement was reached and the Examiner indicated that he would further consider the response when formally filed. Claim amendments and arguments similar to those discussed during the interview are presented herewith for formal consideration.

With respect to the rejection of Claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Applicants respectfully submit that the present amendments overcome this grounds of rejection.

Amended Claim 17 recites, *inter alia*,

an interface that receives a characteristic word file containing a plurality of characteristic words extracted from

each of a plurality of television program information which includes information concerning respective television programs, each of the plurality of characteristic words being included in the plurality of television program information;

a display section configured to display the plurality of characteristic words and to change a color of a displayed one of the plurality of characteristic words relative to a color of an other displayed one of the plurality of characteristic words; and

a communication section that allows a user to select the displayed one of the plurality of characteristic words, wherein

the interface transmits information about the displayed one of the plurality of characteristic words selected by the user to a recording and playback apparatus upon the selection, and is configured to receive television program information about one of the television programs from the recording and playback apparatus in response to the transmitted information about the displayed one of the plurality of characteristic words selected by the user.

Applicants submit that Knudson and Miyamoto fail to disclose or suggest at least these features of amended Claim 17.

Knudson describes an interactive program guide which provides users with a selectable list of combinations of categories. (See Knudson, Abstract). Knudson shows, in Figure 2, a process of receiving program listings data 60, assigning categories to program listing 62, displaying a list of selectable categories to a user 72, searching program listings that match a selected category 76, and displaying the search results 78. (See Knudson, paragraph [0052], [0062], Figure 2).

The Office Action appears to assert that retrieving a list of preselected combination categories from a memory and displaying the categories to the user of Knudson corresponds to “an interface that receives information about a plurality of characteristic words representing characteristics of television programs; a display section configured to change a color of a displayed one of the plurality of characteristic words relative to a color of an other displayed one of the plurality of characteristic words,” as recited in previously presented Claim 17. (See Office Action, pages 2-3). Knudson describes receiving the program listings

data 60, assigning a category to a program listing 62/70, and producing a revised program listing data which includes the assigned category. (See Knudson, paragraph [0055], Figure 3C). In addition, Knudson describes retrieving the selectable list of programming categories from the memory, displaying the selectable list of programming categories as part of the program guide display screen 170, allowing a user to select a programming category, e.g. “sports-dramas,” searching the program listings data for a matching selected category, and displaying the results of the search. (See Knudson, paragraph [0062], Figures 4 and 9).

However, as discussed during the interview, Knudson merely describes retrieving the list of selectable categories, such as “sports-dramas,” and displaying the list of selectable categories to the user. Knudson does not describe receiving a list of selectable categories (as the characteristic word file) containing a plurality of categories (as the characteristic words) extracted from each of a plurality of television program information, each of the plurality of categories (as the characteristic words) being included in the plurality of television program information, and displaying the categories (as the characteristic words).

Therefore, Applicants respectively submit that Knudson does not disclose or suggest “an interface that receives a characteristic word file containing a plurality of characteristic words extracted from each of a plurality of television program information which includes information concerning respective television programs, each of the plurality of characteristic words being included in the plurality of television program information; a display section configured to display the plurality of characteristic words and to change a color of a displayed one of the plurality of characteristic words relative to a color of an other displayed one of the plurality of characteristic words,” as defined in amended Claim 17.

Miyamoto has been considered but fails to remedy the deficiencies of Knudson with respect to amended Claim 17. Therefore, Applicants respectively submit that amended Claim

17 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably distinguishes over Knudson and Miyamoto, either alone or in proper combination.

Additionally, amended independent Claims 22 and 27 recite features similar to that of amended Claim 17 discussed above. Thus, Applicants respectively submit that amended independent Claims 22 and 27 patentably distinguish over Knudson and Miyamoto, either alone or in proper combination.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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